6pm, June 28, 1993, demonstrate, Parliament & Gerrard to ...

STOP RACIST ATTACKS

Gunalan Muthulingam: beaten June 7, died June 10

In the past few months this city and province have seen a frightening escalation in the number of racist attacks. These attacks have left one man dead and one man paralyzed.

The attacks come in the context of a rise in the level of Neo-Nazi organizing across Canada.

Attacks on lesbians and gay men, long targets of hate from far-right groups, have increased considerably. In Montreal, 13 gay men have been murdered since 1990 and countless others have been beaten. Members of the lesbian and gay community believe that Nazi organizations have played a significant role in a number of these beatings and murders. Aboriginal people have been the target of racist attacks. Fascist symbols were painted on the sidewalk outside the Native Canadian Centre in Toronto just a few months ago. One socialist bookstore in Toronto had a window, with pictures of Nelson Mandela and Malcolm X prominently displayed, smashed by the far right.

Nazis in our neighbourhoods

Groups such as the Heritage Front, the Church of the Creator and others are actively trying to build Nazi organizations in this city. They are leafletting our neighbourhoods, targeting our schools and our social clubs. With their flyers, phone-lines and meetings they intend to build a large fascist base in Toronto. A strong, visible, anti-racist presence in our communities is what is needed to push them back.

Just another viewpoint?

The Heritage Front and others say they are just about ideas, that they are about "an alternative viewpoint". Too often the media has bought into this "free-speech" nonsense, simply labelling groups like the Heritage Front as a "White rights group". But what the Nazis are about has nothing to do with rights, but everything to do with inciting and organizing violence against people of colour, lesbians and gay men, the left, and anyone else they see as the enemy. Newspapers have devoted column after column to a broken window and have largely ignored the broken bones and lives to those who have suffered at the hands of the Nazis.

Media and the Nazis

Papers like the *Toronto Sun* have in many ways helped the Heritage Front grow – all the racist stereotypes about "Asian crime gangs" and "Jamaican Drug kingpins" and "job stealing illegal immigrants" – this plays right into the hands and ideology of Heritage Front leader, Wolfgang Droege and his friends.

The racist climate created by such stereotypes is one example of the systemic racism faced by people of colour in Canada. This is made even worse in hard economic times, where right-wingers try to blame the crisis on immigrants, women, lesbians and gay men. It is this scapegoating and economic crisis which feeds the growth of the far right.

A racist climate

The Heritage Front and the racist climate they feed in, both directly and indirectly threatens many of our communities – it is time our communities and our organizations came together and said enough is enough.

We need only look to Europe today to see the threat that the far-right can pose. The brutal attacks and firebombings in Germany, the rise of the National Front in France and the anti-semitic attacks across Poland. But here, as in Europe, many many people oppose the racists and the Nazis and are disgusted by what they stand for.

The opposition that many communities feel to the Nazis however has yet to be fully tapped. We have not yet seen the level of joint action and co-ordination across communities that can give a mass focus to anti-racism and anti-fascism in the city.

The organizers of this demonstration are from a variety of different community and political organizations. Despite our differences we share one thing. We are determined to put an end to the attacks and we are determined to prevent the cancer of fascism taking root in our neighbourhoods and in our city. This demonstration could be a beginning.

Unity in action

To really make a difference and begin to turn the tide against the far-right we need more and more organizations and community members to stand up and get involved. We need to come together and plan how we can effectively work together against racism and fascism. If we stand and work together then we can defeat them.

See over for more information

• June 6, Toronto: Sivarajah Vinasithamby, 32, a Sri Lankan Tamil, is subject to a vicious beating by a white supremacist – he remains in hospital with partial paralysis. He was attacked as he walked home from working at Tasty's Restaurant on Bloor Street.

• June 10, Toronto: Gunalan Muthulingam, 45, also a Sri Lankan Tamil, died following a brutal attack June 7 on Bleeker Street.

• June 11, Toronto: Heritage Front thugs rampage on College Street, attacking anti-racist activists outside Sneaky Dees restaurant.

• June 14, Stoney Creek: Two young Sikh men are attacked by a crowd of thirty students after leaving a high school dance in Stoney Creek.

• June 20, Toronto: Ganeshamoorthy Vigenswaramoorthy, a Sri Lankan Tamil, is cut by broken beer bottles by two white men near King and Dufferin, in an attack which police called a hate crime.

These attacks are not alone, many others haven't made the headlines or have simply gone unreported. Among these lesser known incidents that have occurred in the last few months:

• K.W. kicked in the spine, Pape Station, Toronto; P. verbally harassed by three skinheads, Bain Avenue, Toronto; C.V. attacked at the Metro Toronto Zoo by three white youth; a Sikh boy beaten by three sixteen-year old youths who placed a lit sparkler in his mouth in an east end school; "Anti-Nazi House" scribbled on a road sign with arrow pointing to the house of S.P. in Toronto; two older Tamil women, verbally harassed by a white man on the TTC for speaking Tamil; in Kitchener, anti-semites attack a local shopkeeper; in London, a cross-burning, trade-mark of the Ku Klux Klan, is reported.

Stop Racist Attacks, June 28

We are the many, they are the few

Stop the Attacks

No to the Nazi Menace

Get involved

Come to a 'Town Hall Meeting' to discuss

What next in the fight against Racism?

Monday, July 5, 7pm

519 Church St. Community Centre

The June 28 rally and march is endorsed by the following organizations: • Action Committee on Women's Rights in Iran • AIDS Action Now! • Alliance for South Asian Aids Prevention • Asian ReVisions • Bengal Forum of Canada • Black Action Defense Committee • Bloor Information and Legal Services • Bloor Neighbourhood • Canadian African Newcomers Aid Centre • Coalition of Agencies Serving South Asians • Coalition of Visible Minority Women • Communist League • Cross-Cultural Communication Centre • CUSO-Ontario • Development Education Centre (DEC) • Desh Pardesh • DIVA • Eelam Tamil Information Centre of Toronto • East Toronto Organizing Against Racism and Hate • Federation of Associations of Canadian Tamils (FACT - 10 organizations) • Indian Progressive Study Group • International Federation of Iranian Refugees and Immigrants Councils, Toronto Branch • International Socialists • J.D. Griffin Centre • Jewish Feminist Anti-Fascist League • Kingston Global Community Centre • Korean Women's Collective • Khush, South Asian Gay Men of Toronto • Latin American Lesbian Group • Lesbian Youth Peer Support • Mississauga Tamil Association • Multicultural Coalition for Access to Family Services • National Association of Canadian Tamils (NACT) • National Council of Canadian Filipino Associations, Greater Toronto Area • Native Canadian Centre • Nelson Mandela Support Group • Nirvana Cultural Society • Ontario Coalition Against Poverty • Ontario Coalition for Abortion Clinics • Parkdale Community Legal Services • Portuguese Social Services • Riverdale Immigrant Women's Centre • Samiyoni Collective • Senthamarai • Sri Lankan Students of Canada • Socialist Challenge • South Asian Social Services Organization, Rexdale • South Asian Family Support Services, Scarborough • Tamil Eelam • Tamil Resource Centre • Toronto Anti-Racist Action • Turtle Island Support Group • Two Spirited People of the First Nations • UIZHIPPU - Tamil Women's Organization • ad hoc Union Action Coalition • Urban Alliance on Race Relations • United Steelworkers of America, Local 8300 • Vilapu (Tamil women's organization) • West End Anti-Racism Group • Women's Action Against Racist Policing • Women Working with Immigrant Women • York Sri Lankan Students Association • Young Asians United • Youth for Social Justice – Anti-Racist Action, Kingston • And Endorsed in a personal capacity by • Barbara Hall, City of Toronto Councillor, Ward 7 • Roger Hollander, Metro Toronto councillor • André Kolompar, president, Toronto local of Canadian Union of Postal Workers • Jack Layton, federal NDP candidate for Rosedale • Tim Murphy, Provincial MPP, St. George, St. David • and individual members of: • Nurses And Friends Against Discrimination • Real Justice Coalition • South Asian Women's Group

To add your name to the endorsation list, phone 969-8463